How can I apply for the ASK program?

Applications for the ASK 2010 program will be available from the Khmer Language Program at the University of Hawaii.

- November, 2009: ASK 2010 applications become available
- March 1, 2010: Applications due
- April 1, 2010: Awards notification
- April 15, 2010: Enrollments agreeement
- June 14 - August 6, 2010: ASK 2010 eight-week program

Cost

There is a program fee, but each applicant who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident may apply for a fellowship in partial support of travel, tuition, program fees, and basic housing costs. Other applicants may be accepted, but are not eligible for Federal support and must pay their own costs.

College Credit

It may obtain College credit for the program via the UH Outreach College. Please contact Prof. Chhany Sak-Humphry for further details.

Contact Person

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Benefits

The ASK project will increase the number of linguistically competent Khmer-speaking professionals available for employment in federal agencies, departments responsible for national security, and all non-governmental agencies. Also, it will promote scholarly cooperation, cultural and socio-economic understanding between Cambodia and the US.

ASK is administrated by the Khmer Language Program at the College of Languages, Linguistics and Literature at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM), in collaboration with the Institute of Foreign Languages (IFL) at the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) in Cambodia under a Memorandum of Understanding between UHM and RUPP. ASK is supported by the Consortium of the Center of Southeast Asian Studies and the Southeast Asian Summer Institutes (SEASSI) in the USA:

Arizona State University  Northern Illinois University
University of California-Berkeley  Ohio University
Cornell University  University of California - Los Angeles
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa  University of Washington
University of Michigan  University Wisconsin-Madison

General information:
http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ask
Eligibility:
http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ask/eligibility.htm
Application Form Download:
http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ask/Documents/ASK2010ApplicationForm.doc
What is the ASK program?

The Advanced Study of Khmer (ASK) Summer Abroad Program is an intensive eight-week Khmer language-cultural training program held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. ASK is funded by the US Department of Education, Fulbright-Hays Group Projects. ASK is administered by the College of Languages, Linguistics and Literature at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM), supported by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at UHM, and in collaboration with the Institute of Foreign Languages (IFL) at the Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP) in Cambodia.

Goals of ASK

- To provide intensive and specialized instruction in Khmer (Cambodian) for advanced students and learners of Khmer within its natural, cultural and social context.
- To supplement participants' previous training in Khmer and to attain a high level of language competence and cultural sensitivity within a relatively short eight-week period of time.
- To promote cooperation between the United States and Cambodia and stimulate discussions among individuals from these countries.
- To provide living in-country experience and preparation, which will enable the participants to deal with cross-cultural differences and to develop the social skills necessary for life in Cambodian society before they go into the field.
- To allow potential researchers an opportunity to see their chosen area first hand, and to select appropriate research sites and make introductory contacts.
- To assist participants to become educated, insightful and contributing members of the global community.

Instruction

ASK focuses on advanced-level Khmer language acquisition, linguistics and cultural competency designed for students of various disciplines through the immersion of non-native speakers and heritage learners alike. ASK courses are taught by local Khmer professional instructors and linguists with extensive experience teaching Khmer as a foreign language. The ASK curriculum is intensive, with class size limited to six-eight students, and implements eight instructional modules based on ACTFL proficiency and OPI guidelines, equal to one academic semester of study.

Involvement

Each participant will conduct a mini-research project during the course of the summer and will submit as a written report as well as an oral presentation in Khmer during the final week of the ASK program. This project adds immeasurably to the ASK experience, as it combines students' professional and educational-cultural interests with practical interaction and involvement with Khmer individuals and communities.

Home-Stays

One week home-stays experience with local families in Cambodian villages will foster intercultural communication by reinforcing the language skills of participants and increasing their acquisition of relevant cultural knowledge and competency. The Ask program offers one-of-a-kind opportunity to engage in academic, social and cultural interaction with Khmer communities. Through ASK, participants will develop not only their language competence, but also will gain greater awareness and sensitivity about Khmer culture, and will develop an everlasting friendship with Khmer people.

Immersion

ASK is a structured academic program consisting of four hours of formal classroom instruction each morning, followed by pre-arranged afternoon site visits and related task-based learning activities which provide students with opportunities to observe, engage, analyze, and experience issues introduced in the morning sessions, as well as to practice their language-cultural skills. These activities include meetings with governmental offices, local non-governmental organizations, businesses, community agencies, and cultural associations, and encourage students' interaction with all segments of Khmer society. The curriculum includes four weekend field trips to outlying area of Phnom Penh. In addition, one week of the program is reserved for a week-long visit to provincial areas in Cambodia: Siem Reap, Koh Kong, Ratanak Kiri or Mondul Kiri. In language study, Immersion is fluency's best guarantee.